



Frida: A Novel of Frida Kahlo

By Barbara Mujica

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Frida Kahlo, painter and cultural icon, lived a life of extremes. The subject of an Academy Award(c) nominated film starring Salma Hayek, Kahlo was crippled by polio and left barren by an accident when she was a teenager.

And yet she went on to fall in love with and marry another star of the art world, muralist Diego Rivera. filled with passion, jealousy, and deceit, their story captured the world's imagination.

Told in the voice of Frida's sister Cristina, who bears witness to Frida and Diego's tumultuous marriage, this is a brilliantly vivid work of historical fiction. What unfolds is an intense tale of sibling rivalry, as both sisters vie for Rivera's affection. Mujica imbues the lives and loves of these remarkable characters with sparkling drama and builds her tale to a shattering conclusion.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Confessions of a guilt-ridden sister spill off the pages of this tell-all historical fiction based on the life of Mexican artist Frida Kahlo, as narrated by Kahlo's younger sister, Cristina. Creakily structured, the text purports to be a transcription of Cristi's conversations with her psychiatrist, and sometimes transparently didactic, the novel paints a detailed picture of Kahlo and her milieu. Bullied in school for being half Jewish, Frida and Cristina grow up in the aftermath of the Mexican Revolution of 1910 in Coyoacan, in the Central Plateau. Cristi, a very ordinary child, often feels eclipsed by her older sister, whether seeking attention from their emotionally distant father or later, from Frida's famous, philandering husband, muralist Diego Rivera. Despite Cristi's jealousies and Frida's insatiable need for attention, the girls keep in close touch when Frida goes away to school in Mexico City and Cristi is forced to take a job to help pay family bills. As Frida's life expands to include marriage to Rivera and travel in the United States, Cristi's world shrinks: she ends up back at home, caring for her two small children and ailing mother. Although events in Mexican history and the adventures of Frida's famous friends make for some intrigue, narrator Cristi is simply not compelling enough to sustain the reader's interest. Her very identity is defined by Frida, and although she professes to love her sister, the bitterness in her voice is evident as she reminds the reader that she was prettier than Frida and that Rivera loved to paint her in the nude. However, there are two movies in the making about Frida Kahlo's life, starring, respectively, popular Latina actresses Jennifer Lopez and Salma Hayek, and they could spark interest in all things Frida. Agent, Scovil, Chichak, Galen. (Jan.)

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From [Booklist](#)

Mexican painter Frida Kahlo has become an icon of female power, creativity, and perseverance. Smart and tempestuous, narcissistic and gutsy, she lived a life of great drama and pain, and translated her struggles with the debilitating injuries she sustained in a horrific bus-trolley accident as a teenager, her miscarriages, her radical politics, and her difficult marriage to muralist Diego Rivera into galvanizing and indelible self-portraits. Her paintings are feminist banners, and the events of her life have become mythologized nearly to the point of a catechism. In her boldly visceral fictionalization, Mujica, a widely published fiction writer and critic, hasn't tried to portray Kahlo from the inside. Instead she filters her through the eyes of her simultaneously adoring and resentful sister, Cristina, an almost entirely invented character. This device works well, except for the unnecessary complication of having the deliciously self-serving narrator share her memories with an unidentified American psychologist. Otherwise, this is a tremendously involving, extravagantly sensuous, and imaginatively detailed and interpretative portrait of a fascinating and influential artist who lived a purposefully theatrical life while suffering profound traumas of the body and soul. See the Read-alikes column on the opposite page for more novels about real-life artists. *Donna Seaman*
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Review

"A vivid creation...This story burns with dramatic urgency." --"The New York Times"

Users Review

From reader reviews:

James Stumbaugh:

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Perla Baxter:

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Rigoberto Adams:

Within this era which is the greater individual or who has ability in doing something more are more treasured than other. Do you want to become among it? It is just simple approach to have that. What you should do is just spending your time little but quite enough to have a look at some books. One of the books in the top list in your reading list is actually Frida: A Novel of Frida Kahlo. This book which is qualified as The Hungry Hills can get you closer in getting precious person. By looking upwards and review this reserve you can get many advantages.

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